

State of California - The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Marine Resources Region  
Long Beach, California

CRUISE REPORT 74-KB-28  
SPORTFISH-KELP HABITAT PROJECT

Prepared by Peter L. Haaker

**Vessel:** R/V KELP BASS

**Dates:** November 4-8, 1974

**Locality:** The nearshore waters of Catalina Island and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

**Purpose:** To prepare and relocate chains for the attachment of giant kelp, *Macrocystis* sp.

To transplant giant kelp from Catalina Island to Palos Verdes.

To collect halfmoon, *Medialuna californiensis*, for life history studies.

**Procedure:** Emphasis was placed on kelp transplant activities. Chain relocation and fish collection activities were not undertaken during this cruise.

Young kelp plants, 0.5 to 3.0 m (1.7 to 9.9 ft) in length were collected by divers at Catalina Island and transplanted to our Pt. Vicente and Abalone Cove transplant sites. Plants were attached using rubber rings cut from inner tubes.

**Results:** Project personnel, with the assistance of the crew of the KELP BASS, transplanted 530 young adult giant kelp plants. These plants were secured to rocks in 3 to 7 m (9.9 to 23.1 ft) of water. A total of 308 plants was attached in Abalone Cove and 222 plants at Point Vicente. These young plants were taken from beds at Catalina Island. Many had attached to small stones or to worm tubes over sand. These rapidly growing young plants soon would have floated away as the buoyancy of the plant increased with age.

Sea urchins, *Strongylocentrotus* spp., were observed feeding on transplants secured in October 1974; thus, extensive urchin crushing operations were carried out in the vicinity of the kelp.

Some competing algae, such as *Sargassum* sp., *Cystoseira* spp., and *Egregia* sp., were removed from the vicinity of the kelp plants.

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November 8 operations were cancelled due to bad weather at sea.

Personnel: M. Mazarovich, Vessel Captain (November 4 and 8)  
D. Carvahlo, Vessel Captain (November 5-7)  
K. Wilson, Biologist-in-charge  
P. Haaker, Biologist  
D. Hanan, Seasonal aid

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